

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO <i>the world in words</i>			21st Season
JULIUS CAESAR	By William Shakespeare Directed by Stephen Spencer	10.23 → 10.26.2015	
THE WINTER'S TALE	By William Shakespeare Directed by Barbara Zahora	01.15 → 01.18.2016	
CYMBELINE	By William Shakespeare Directed by Jeff Christian	02.26 → 02.29.2016	
CARDENIO	Adapted from Shakespeare & Fletcher by Stephen Greenblatt & Charles Mee Directed by Peter Garino	04.15 → 04.18.2016	

2015-2016 Performance Schedule:

Fridays at 7:00PM - The Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton Street, Niles, IL (Pre-registration required)

Saturdays at 10:00AM* – The Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton, Street, Chicago, IL

Saturdays at 2:00PM – Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL

Sundays at 2:00PM – Highland Park Public Library, 494 Laurel Avenue, Highland Park, IL

Mondays at 6:30PM - Vernon Area Public Library, 300 Olde Half Day Road, Lincolnshire, IL (Pre-registration required)

Admission is FREE, seating is limited. All performances are preceded by an introduction to the play that commences 15 minutes prior to curtain.

* Please note that the October 24 performance of “Julius Caesar” has been moved from the Newberry Library to the Buchanan Chapel at Fourth Presbyterian Church, 126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago. Curtain is 10:00AM with introduction at 9:45AM.

THE SHAKESPEARE PROJECT OF CHICAGO

the world in words

THE DARK LADY OF THE SONNETS

by

George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Michelle Shupe

A Benefit for
The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

July 11, 2015



All actors appearing in this performance are members of Actors' Equity Association, the union of professional actors and stage managers.

www.shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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The Shakespeare Project gratefully acknowledges *all* of the generous contributions made by its valued patrons over the past 20 years.

With heartfelt thanks, we recognize contributors to our 2014-2015 season:

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Coming in September

A play by

Tom Stoppard

with music by

Pink Floyd

Darkside

A Benefit for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago

For more information, email:

darkside@shakespeareprojectchicago.org

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Artist Biographies



Chris Amos (Beefeater) is grateful to return to The Shakespeare Project. Chicago credits include Remy Bumpo, Northlight, BoHo Theatre, American Theatre Company, Provision, and Chicago Shakespeare. Regional credits include multiple seasons at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival and the Utah Shakespeare Festival. Chris holds an MFA in acting from Roosevelt University in Chicago, and BAs in both music and theatre from Oklahoma State University.



Doug MacKechnie (Shakespeare) is delighted to work with The Shakespeare Project for the first time, after becoming a recent regular with ShawChicago in such roles as Adolphus Cusins in *Major Barbara*, Jack Tanner in *Man and Superman*, and the Earl of Warwick in *Saint Joan*. Doug was also seen last Fall as Victor Frankenstein in *The Gravedigger* at First Folio, and other recent appearances include *Menorca* (16th Street), *Lucinda's Bed* (Chicago Dramatists), *Slaphappy* (Beat The Jester Productions), and *Unnecessary Farce* (BoarsHead Theater; Lansing, MI) – all world premieres. Other Chicagoland credits include *A Christmas Story* (Theater Wit); *That Championship Season*, *Pitz & Joe* (Red Hen Productions); *Polish Joke*, *Don't Drink the Water* (Noble Fool); *Uncle Fred In the Springtime*, *Taking Steps*, *She Stoops To Conquer* (City Lit); *Translations* (Seanachai); *An American Daughter* (Organic); *Principia Scriptoriae* (Circle); *Artist Descending A Staircase*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Noises Off* (Broutil & Frothingham Productions); and countless readings at Chicago Dramatists, where he's been an Associate Artist since 2008. Doug is an MFA graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University. Proud member of Actors' Equity.



Coliss Preston (Dark Lady) has been privileged to perform for The Shakespeare Project of Chicago since her arrival in Chicago in 2006. Most recently she created, performed and produced a Shakespeare-based CD with collaborators Michelle Shupe and John Slywka called I GRANT I AM A WOMAN available at CDBaby.com. Chicago credits include the *Oedipus Complex* (Goodman) and *Old Jews Telling Jokes* (Royal George). New York credits include *A Piece of My Heart* (Manhattan Theatre Club), *Cherry Orchard* (York Theatre) and *The Erotica Project* (Public Theater). Regionally credits: Houston's Alley Theatre, Actors Theatre of Louisville, The Denver Center, Yale Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse and the Alabama, Illinois, Oregon and Utah Shakespeare Festivals. For more information please visit www.corlisspreston.com.



Barbara Zahora (Queen Elizabeth) has been happy to be the Project's associate artistic director since 2010. This past season she appeared as one of the witches in *Macbeth* and as Regan in *King Lear*, in addition to directing *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet* (co-adapted with Michelle Shupe and Peter Garino). She was most recently seen as Barbara Undershaft in *Major Barbara* at ShawChicago, where she is a member of the core ensemble. Other stage credits include *All My Sons* and *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (American Players Theatre); *Hamlet*, *A Little Night Music*, *Heartbreak House* and *Misalliance* (Writers' Theatre); *Dancing at Lughnasa* and *Mrs. Coney* (Oak Park Festival Theatre); *The Country Girl* (Illinois Theatre Center); *Marionette Macbeth*, *The Moliere Comedies*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Richard II*, *The School for Scandal*, and *All's Well That Ends Well* (Chicago Shakespeare Theater); *Lady Windermere's Fan* (Northlight Theatre); *A Christmas Carol*, *Wit* (Goodman Theatre); and *Hard Times* (Lookingglass Theatre). She teaches at Roosevelt University's Chicago College for the Performing Arts and the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University. Next season she will be directing *The Winter's Tale* for the Project, and she thanks you all for coming out tonight to support our mission!

Michelle Shupe (Director) is delighted to be directing Shaw's *The Dark Lady of the Sonnets* for The Shakespeare Project's 2015 summer benefit. She directed *The Merchant of Venice* for The Project in 2013 and adapted and directed last year's spring benefit, *Reflections from a Shakespeare Garden*. She also worked as a dramaturg for The Project for several years. As an actor, she has worked at various theaters throughout the country, including: Alabama Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Theatre, The Goodman, Illinois Shakespeare Festival, The Studio Theatre, Signature Theatre, Theater J, Metrostage and many others. She is adapting a night of Shakespeare scenes for Roosevelt University in the fall.

George Zahora (Sound Design) has done sound design, in various professional and nonprofessional capacities, for more than 20 years. He's currently enjoying his fourth season as The Project's unofficial resident sound designer; you may have heard his sound effects and original music in *King Lear*, *Macbeth*, *All's Well That Ends Well*, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Fair Maid of the West*, *Edward III*, *A Woman Killed with Kindness* and *Othello*, and *The Revenger's Tragedy* among others. He sincerely appreciates your support of The Project and the excellent Chicago artists it employs.

Peter Garino (Artistic Director) is a founding member of The Shakespeare Project of Chicago and has served as Artistic Director since June 2010. He directed *King Lear* and *The Revenger's Tragedy* in The Shakespeare Project's 20th Anniversary Season. Last season, he directed Thomas Heywood's *The Fair Maid of the West*. He recently directed Robert Bray's *Lincoln in Limbo* which was presented at the Newberry Library and Illinois Wesleyan University. For the Society of Early Americanists, he directed selections from Royall Tyler's, *The Contrast* and a work-in-progress based on the life of Ann Hutchinson. Recent appearances for The Project include Lord LaFew in *All's Well That Ends Well* and Antonio in *The Merchant of Venice*. He will direct a special benefit performance of Tom

Stoppard's *Darkside* in September 2015. In April 2016, he will direct Stephen Greenblatt and Charles Mee's modern adaptation of the Shakespeare/Fletcher collaboration, *Cardenio*. Other directing credits for The Shakespeare Project include: *The Reign of King Edward III*, *A Woman Killed With Kindness*, *Othello*, *The Tempest*, *Richard II*, *Measure For Measure*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *Pericles* (1996 and 2008), *The Taming of the Shrew*, *2 Henry IV*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and his own adaptations of Shakespeare's sonnets and songs, *My Name Is Will*, and *The Rape of Lucrece*. On-stage appearances with The Project include Friar Laurence/Lord Capulet in *50-Minute Romeo and Juliet*, Agamemnon in *Troilus & Cressida*, George Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Cardinal Wolsey in *Henry VIII*, Lord Stanley in *Richard III*, Duke Senior and Duke Frederick in *As You Like It*, and many others. Peter has worked with the Steppenwolf and Organic Theatre companies, the Body Politic, Pegasus Players and with the Oak Park Festival Theatre and Illinois Shakespeare Festival (three seasons). Peter attended the National Shakespeare Conservatory and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in Acting from Illinois State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts from Hofstra University, New York. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association, and SAG/AFTRA. Love and thanks to Helene and Glen.

Very special thanks to our hosts:
Jacqueline and John Thompson

The Dark Lady of The Sonnets was first performed at the Haymarket Theatre, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 24th November 1910, by Mona Limerick as the Dark Lady, Suzanne Sheldon as Queen Elizabeth, Granville Barker as Shakespeare, and Hugh Tabberer as the Beefeater.

The Dark Lady of the Sonnets by George Bernard Shaw

Beefeater Chris Amos*
William Shakespeare..... Doug MacKechnie*
Queen Elizabeth Barbara Zahora*
The Dark Lady Corliss Preston*

Scene: Midsummer night on the terrace of the Palace at Whitehall, overlooking the Thames.

* Members of Actors' Equity Association

